Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-05 INSE-00 CA-01 OIC-02 /125 W

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R 190940Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1829

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 0492

E.O.11652: N/A TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJECT: UNHCR-PROPOSED MEETING ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: A) HONG KONG 0435 B) STATE 13385

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH UNHCR ASST. REP. CARPENTER REGARDING PLANNED MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR ON JANUARY 30 (SAMPATKUMAR ON LEAVE. WILL RETURN JAN 25). CARPENTER INDICATED THAT HE WAS UNCLEAR AS TO DETAILS OF MEETING BUT THAT SUBJECT WOULD BE REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA AND BEST MEANS OF COORDINATING EFFORTS AMONG TRADITIONAL COUNTRIES OF RESETTLE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT. CARPENTER STATED THAT NO AGENDA WOULD BE AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND THAT FOCUS WOULD BE HOW BEST TO RAPIDLY MOVE REFUGEES FROM MALAYSIA TO COUNTRIES OF PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT. HE WELCOMED ATTENDANCE OF REFUGEE COORDINATOR BARNES.

2. CARPENTER PROVIDED FOLLOWING LIST OF COUNTRIES WHO HE BELIEVES WILL BE REPRESENTED AT MEETING (BY THEIR REPRESENTATIVE LOCALLY):

AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, CANADA, BELGIUM, DENMARK, SWITZERLAND, NETHER-LANDS, SWEDEN, FRANCE, BRITAIN, JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, GERMANY AND U.S.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE THE DEPARTURE FROM MALAYSIA OF SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF REFGUEES IN PAST THREE MONTHS, THE OVERALL NUMBER REMAINING HAS BEEN REDUCED ONLY MARGINALLY. THIS MEETING, LIKE SEVERAL SIMILAR WORKING-LEVEL MEETINGS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED HERE OVER THE PAST YEAR, SHOULD PROVE A USEFUL FORUM FOR FURTHERING COORDINATION AMONG RECIPIENT NATIONS. BASED ON OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH UNHCR REPS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES INVITED, FOCUS OF CONFERENCE WILL BE VERY MUCH ON MALAYSIA AND ON COMPARISON OF VARIOUS NATIONS PROCEDURES FOR ACCEPTING AND SCREENING REFUGEES. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT UNHCR REP INTENDS TO DISCUSS BROAD POLICY QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, ALTHOUGH WE ANTICIPATE HE WILL AGAIN URGE PARTICIPANTS TO INCREASE ACCEPTANCE OFFERS AS HE HAS DONE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

4. WE AGREE WITH OBSERVATION PARA 1, REF A THAT MEETING CAN SERVE AS PARTIAL RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGSON SUBJECT. HOWEVER, WE WOULD STRONGLY CAUTION AGAINST MAKING MORE OF IT THAN IT APPEARS AT THIS POINT TO BE, I.E., AN ESSENTIALLY WORKING-LEVEL MEETING DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO REVIEWING LOCAL PROBLEMS AND THE NEED FOR FURTHER COORDINATION IN RESOLVING THEM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MOST REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE EITHER EXPERTS OR MIDDLE-RANKING DIPLOMATS. WE THEREFORE PLAN TO HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULAR OFFICER DIZIKES REPRESENT THIS EMBASSY. MILLER

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